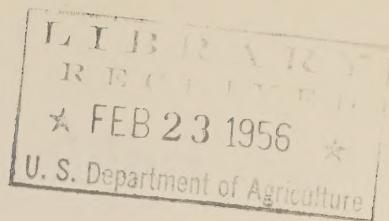


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1956

Earle Dilatush's Holly Farm  
Robbinsville, N.J.



# HOOLLIES

of

## FOREIGN ORIGIN

Did you know that Holly trees (as well as humans) emigrated to this country in the past century? Herein are some interesting "naturalized" Hollies now growing plentifully in the United States.



# Hollies of Foreign Origin

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## JAPANESE HOLLIES (Ilex Crenata Varieties)

(Often called "Ilex"; a misnomer as all Hollies have Ilex as a first name)

You've probably seen these but may not have known that they were Holly. Japanese Hollies look much like boxwood but have none of the disadvantages of boxwood. They are hardy in cold climates where boxwood must be covered and like all Hollies, may be pruned most anywhere with the assurance of growing again even more beautifully. Female varieties of Japanese Hollies have purple-black berries which the birds love. However, Japanese Hollies are not noted for their berries but for their fully evergreen dark green foliage. Used by the hundreds of thousands in the foundation plantings of new and old homes, this Holly is truly useful and nearly as widely grown as *taxus* (yew). Japanese Hollies are easy to grow, love Oak Leafmold, and ship well. The foliage makes a delightfully different contrast that will blend with other evergreens and compliment them to further "green up" the foundation planting.

There are many varieties, the most popular of all being the "convexa" (bullata), which has slightly cupped leaves and is female. Tending to grow somewhat taller than broad, *convexa* will gain about a foot of height every three or four years and almost as much spread. It may be sheared to a pyramid or ball shape if wished. A good male variety is "rotundifolia" which grows somewhat faster and a bit more upright than *convexa*. *Rotundifolia* is usually used on either corner of the house, either side of the door or in a similar accent point near the house where a taller evergreen is desired. A lovely purple stemmed variety is "globosa". This one is a delight to "gaze into" for it is so tidy and with a hazily purple effect within the green of the foliage. Grows somewhat faster than *convexa* and shears well to a globe. "Hetzii" is a good dark green type with slightly cupped leaves that are larger than the leaves of *convexa*. Also female, it is easily sheared to grow broader than tall. It has much the same uses as a spreading *taxus* (yew) and will grow about a foot of breadth in three or four years.

Of delightful interest are the petite delicate little-leaved dwarf Japanese Hollies. Delicate only in appearance, they may actually be sat upon when old, for they grow with great strength and density. Perhaps the very best of all dwarfs is the *Helleri*, which grows roughly three times as broad as tall. A five or six year old will be a dense mound with a spread of a foot or more. Very useful for evergreen edging and delightful where a low mounded evergreen is used, such as at either side of the base of the front steps, at the top of a flight of garden steps, where dwarf box is used, etc.

We recommend the three year size when buying Japanese Hollies as they are not expensive and they "look like something" when planted next to the house or out in the yard.

A-1 varieties, three year olds, in 8" Mennepans, 6-12" height or spread, dependent upon variety, @ \$2.50 each POSTPAID. (5 or more @ \$1.50 each plus shipping charges, rail Express.)

## ENGLISH HOLLIES (*Ilex Aquifolium* varieties)

Many folks are familiar with English Holly from the beautiful packages of cut Holly branches shipped from Oregon each year. On the Pacific Northwest Coast English Hollies grow with matchless perfection because of the warm ocean currents that come close to shore. These currents keep the air in a foggy humid state and prevent rapid changes of temperature. Elsewhere in the United States, the problem is to make the English Holly as much "at Home" as possible. We cannot practically create damp air, but we can plant English Holly as much out of the wind as possible and put it in partial shade so that our air will dry it less. We cannot practically create a climate with mild temperature changes but we can put down a heavy root mulch to prevent the roots from freezing and thawing rapidly. And by shading the top of the tree, we save it from the rapid freezing and thawing that would occur between sunny days and cold nights in winter. Along the East Coast and inland along rivers and lakes, in sheltered spots similar to the recommendations described above there are a number of lovely English Hollies to be found. While English Hollies should not be sold to everyone with the idea that everyone can grow them, there is no doubt but that most everyone who has a "spot" out of the wind and in partial shade and who will heavily root mulch can likely grow a lovely little English Holly tree that will have delightful foliage even if the climate is not enough to its liking for it to berry well while small. In rigorous climates the American Holly may be more generally depended upon for masses of red berries and overall vigor and health.

Of all the Hollies, the English Hollies are the most changeable and have the most delightful variations in leaf. There are the tiny leaved ones (*Angustifolia-sexless*) and those that actually have spines on top of the leaf as well as at the sides (*ferox-sexless*). Among other leaf variations in green are the hybrids with large rip-saw-like leaf edges (*Altaclarensis* *Wilsoni* female) and the smooth, partially spineless green leaf (*Van Tol* female) and crinkly spined green leaf types (female or male.)

Most everyone seems to love the silver-varigated English Holly with its white-silver edged leaves of green, so bright and pretty (*albo-marginata-female*). The silver variegated are more tender than the green types but, fortunately do not grow too rapidly and thus may be grown in the house. They thrive with treatment such as one would give an African violet or fern and have the delightful advantage that one may cut a sprig now and then for decoration.

Our nursery is a windswept, cold place in winter but our hardy American Hollies stand out beautifully in the worst places, thousands of them, growing with lovely dark leaves and bright berries. Our Japanese Hollies stand out in the cold too, bright and green. Near our homes and buildings and in lath houses, English and Chinese Hollies may be found. We have no great quantity of them, but we enjoy them and will be glad to send you anything we have. If we do not have the ones that you wish, we will be glad to get them for you or send you to someone who has them.

A good economical size of English Holly to start with is the yearling size, 3-6", in 4" Menepots. By no means too small to plant out, these have good roots and all varieties are @ 1.75 each POSTPAID (5 or more @ 1.25 each, plus shipping costs, Rail Express).

## CHINESE HOLLIES (*Ilex Cornuta* varieties and *Ilex Pernyi* varieties)

Chinese Hollies are grown extensively in the South and Southwest for they like a hot climate and do not mind dry air. The leaves are glossy dark green, hard and stiff, with very sharp spines. The most common variety is the "Burford" which may be found by the tens of thousands throughout the South and Southwest in nurseries and home plantings. Its leaves often have one tip spine only, altho older trees have many leaves that carry three or more spines. A naturally bushy grower, the Burford adapts well to the foundation planting of the modern home. Burford will berry well in the South and Southwest without a male (apparently stimulated by the pollen of some other shrubs or trees) but when brought East or Midwest very seldom will berry at all unless provided with a Chinese male of some sort. Quite fast growing, often gaining nearly a foot a year.

Chinese Hollies will survive fairly cold temperatures in the East and Midwest if protected from the worst winds. If planted out away from buildings and in the worst winds, they will often wind burn to a brownish color, or partial winterkill. A good thick rootmulch each fall is wise. It is not adviseable to feed them with strong fertilizer in a northern climate as they will be liable to winterburn if made to grow fast.

The *Ilex Cornuta* strain, from seed, has sharply spined leaves and is very attractive. A sideways profile of the front of a typical leaf resembles the head and horns of a bull (two huge frontal leaf spines). These are available in male or female (new and improved strains).

*Ilex Pernyi* has well spined miniature Holly leaves. Tho it grows quite loosely and openly, it is very slow growing, gaining only a few inches a year. The female bears red berries under the leaves, which are borne on stems in the manner of the fronded leaves of a fern. Pernyi is most attractive on the northside of the house or as an interesting feature on a shady lawn. Variety Vietchi bears berries more profusely and in a more typical holly-like manner, has larger, less fronded leaves, of a dark green. Bushier than pernyi in general and tolerable of more sun, Vietchi is a veritable gem when growing well.

All Chinese varieties, yearlings in 4" pots, 3-10" high, \$1.75 each Postpaid (5 or more @ 1.25 each plus shipping charges, Rail Express).

Larger sizes are usually available. We will gladly quote on size and variety wished, and if we do not have them, will try to obtain them for you or direct you to a reliable source.